The Maknae's Wild Girlfriend?: Zoey's "Strange" Behavior, Rumi and Mira's Worry, and the Seoul Surprise

Posted originally on the SquidgeWorld Archive at http://squidgeworld.org/works/92227.

Rating:	Teen And Up Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Category:	F/F
Fandoms:	KPop Demon Hunters [2025], Girls Band Cry [Anime]
Relationships:	Zoey/Nina Iseri, Mira & Rumi & Zoey [KPop Demon Hunters]
Characters:	Zoey [KPop Demon Hunters], Rumi [KPop Demon Hunters], Mira [KPop Demon Hunters], Nina Iseri
Additional Tags:	Zoey-centric [KPop Demon Hunters], Crossovers & Fandom Fusions, Crossover Pairings, Crack, Secrets, Music, Alternate Universe - Pop Stars, Coming Out, Female Friendship, Korean Characters, Female Character of Color, Food Sharing, Comfort Food, Snacks & Snack Food, Korean food, Queer Themes, LGBTQ+ Themes, Japan, Phone Calls & Telephones, Long-Distance Relationship, set in Seoul, Concerts, Surprises, Surprise Visits, set in summer, Song Lyrics, Song: What It Sounds Like [KPop Demon Hunters], Post-Movie: KPop Demon Hunters [2025], Demon Hunters, Mentioned Bobby [KPop Demon Hunters], Surprise Kissing, Kissing, Cheek Kisses, Gentle Kissing, Mentioned Celine [KPop Demon Hunters], Mentioned Jinu [KPop Demon Hunters], Punk rock, girl bands, Blushing, Mentioned Saja Boys [KPop Demon Hunters], Mentioned Gwi-Ma [KPop Demon Hunters], Supportive Huntrix [KPop Demon Hunters], Texting, Nicknames, Fanart Welcome, Originally Posted on Sunset
Language:	English
Series:	Part 19 of Originally on Sunset
Stats:	Published: 2026-04-27 Words: 8,072 Chapters: 1/1

The Maknae's Wild Girlfriend?: Zoey's "Strange" Behavior, Rumi and Mira's Worry, and the Seoul Surprise

by lefemmerouge

Summary

One day, Rumi and Mira hear Zoey humming a song, chuckling happily, and dancing around. After Zoey lashes out at them for being nosy, she extends her two middle fingers toward them. Mira demands she apologize. Later that day, Zoey claims she was just "tired" when she made these gestures. After Mira squashes Rumi's foolhardy plan to secretly follow Zoey the next day, as she does not want them to get on Zoey's "bad side," they ask her about what is going on with her the next morning. What she tells them, catches Mira and Rumi both off guard. It almost turns their world upside down: their friend is dating a free-spirited young vocalist from a Japanese girls band! None of them have any idea what is coming when they learn that a mysterious band will be playing in downtown Seoul, a band only known by the initials of "TT"...

Notes

Hey everyone! I originally published this on AO3 back in early December of last year, where it garnered 9 kudos, 2 bookmarks, over 270 hits, and a few comments. I later cross-posted it on Wattpad, Quotev, and Asian Fanfiction. The original version which I cross-posted on some some time ago, listed eight fics as inspirations. They are: "Like Moths to a Flame" by finat1c, "Demon Marks" by nexvici, "Caress my patterns" by Butman911, "Credibility" by StudentOfEtherium, "portrait of a butterfly" by basto, "The Pretender" by AnnieRosaWriting, "Debts" by Grimace20201, and "Masks are for liars" by AyaDragon. All of them can be read on AO3, as none of them have been posted here.

The other articles cited as inspirations in the original fic were from Tudum, including: "How to Talk Like a K-Pop Fan: A KPop Demon Hunters Dictionary" (by Stephan Lee), "All the Food in KPop Demon Hunters, from Couch Snacks to Korean Delicacies" (by Olivia Harrison), and "Rumi in KPop Demon Hunters: Everything to Know About the Golden-Voiced Hero" (by Alex Frank).

When cross-posting this fic here, I changed the title to "The Maknae's Wild Girlfriend?: Zoey's "Strange" Behavior, Rumi and Mira's Worry, and the Seoul Surprise" and added more dancing scenes, to **fulfill** the prompt by kitty on a certain site: any, any/any: dancing. The original work, which was 6,902 words long, mentioned the word "dancing" twice and "danced" once. 1,147 words (about 17% more) were added, bringing to a total of 8,049 words, with new words about dancing, Rumi and Mira's feelings toward Zoey's new girlfriend, Zoey, her girlfriend, and more. In addition, dividers were added for certain scenes so that this work could be more easily read. I revised the fic a little more when posting it here to the current word count.

I declined to use an early title ("Zoey's Secret Japanese Girlfriend, Rumi's Surprise, and Mira's Shock") of the original work here. Since the publication of the original work, I received the KPop Demon Hunters artbook, and still have the Huntrix fan kit. It calls Zoey the baby of the group, who is always eager to please, bringing a light to the girls' performance, and demon slaying. Even so, and despite this lightness, if you "mess with her sisters" (Rumi and Mira), she won't "hesitate to destroy you." According to the KPop Demon Hunter's Dictionary post, a maknae is "the youngest member of a group — often treated as the fandom's adorable kid sibling." That post added that within Huntrix, the maknae is Zoey, whose "maknae energy is unstoppable."

As always, comments and constructive criticism are welcome. I'd love to write more fics of them all together if I have the opportunity.

See the end of the work for more notes

- Inspired by The Maknae's Wild Girlfriend?: Zoey, Rumi, Mira, and the Seoul Surprise by lefemmerouge

Zoey came back into the apartment she shared with Rumi and Mira. She was humming a catchy melody, "It's okay to be unreliable / The hand belongs to myself." She chuckled happily to herself and twirled around. She was never good at this kind of thing. She would be mortified if someone ever posted a video of this online, so she often acted like she "didn't know how" to dance. She did not want to embarrass herself. She acted like she had a microphone in her hand, moved her hips, and nearly mouthed the words. She jumped up in the air with glee, then planted her feet back on the ground. She moved her feet into position, placing one hand on her leg, and pointed her other up to the ceiling. She shouted, "oh yeah!" She didn't notice a nearby noise, as she usually did, as she was so engrossed in what she was doing, with her headphones affixed to her head. She did every dance she could think of, looking like a total fool, but really enjoying herself. She thought she heard someone laugh, but she knew that couldn't be right. They couldn't be back yet, *right*? They were supposed to be at some special gala. She had declined to go.

She happened to glance over and she saw them. Her friends were there and nearly cheering. Her headphones fell off her head and she stepped back in shock. They were supposed to be somewhere else! They weren't supposed to be there! She was utterly humiliated. Why did they have to see it? What would they think of her now? She knew they'd probably be accepting, but she still wanted to do things on her own and keep them to herself. This was one of them.

"So, Zo, what are you humming and dancing to? You like a total diva right now," Mira asked. Rumi was wondering the same thing. Zoey didn't know what to say. She almost stuttered, then huffed. She had been so surprised that she still hadn't recovered from them seeing her like this. She blurted out her words, without a second thought. "It's nothing! Mind your own damn business!" She extended her two middle fingers toward them and walked away while stomping on the ground. Mira was offended. Zoey slammed her bedroom door, infuriating her even more. "You get back here and *apologize*!" she shouted back. Rumi laughed at how silly this was. Maybe Zoey was playing around? Maybe she wasn't being serious? She didn't know. Neither of them knew what was really going on. Back in her room, Zoey's face was completely flushed. She couldn't believe herself. Why had she done that? What was she doing? She'd have to apologize.

Later that night, Zoey opened her door and snuck out to the fridge to get a bite to eat. She hoped they were all back in their rooms. Mira wasn't there. Rumi was sitting on the couch. "Zo, what were you doing earlier?" She jumped back. She didn't expect Rumi to be there. She stumbled over her words again. She didn't want to make the same mistake. She couldn't

let it get to her. She couldn't ruin their friendship. She came up with a *seemingly valid* excuse.

"It's nothing...I'm just...uh...tired...that's all." Rumi laughed. She didn't accept that. Even so, teasing her about it wouldn't be right. She was her *number one fan.* She was a dedicated friend to this dear rapper. As such, she was willing to let it slide, *for now*. "Okay, okay. Well, good night!" Zoey was surprised. Rumi seemed to accept her reasoning so easily. She happily smiled. She returned to her room and closed her door without incident.

After she scanned the area to make sure the coast was clear, Rumi knocked on Mira's door. She opened it, unsure who was on the other side. Rumi was standing right in front of the door, with a devious grin on her face. Coming close, she whispered to her friend. "*Something* is up with Zoey." Mira threw up her hands. She led her friend inside and shut the door behind her. She couldn't agree more. "There certainly is!" Rumi made a proposal that Mira would never have expected. She didn't think that her friend would ever pose such an idea. After all, Zoey was *usually* the most open and genuine of all three of them. "We *need* to follow her tomorrow," her friend stated, matter-of-factly.

Mira was taken aback. Did she really want to spy on their closest friend? What if it created a schism and... broke up the band? While Rumi *lying* to Zoey and Mira about being half-demon had opened up a wound, it had been healed since then, thanks to the work they had all put in. What if that opened again? What if...? She shook her head. "I'm not so sure, Rumi. If we get on her bad side, it *could* mean the end of Huntrix..." Rumi knew that Mira had a good point. She couldn't argue with her logic. She always seemed to be more reasonable than she would ever be. Rumi sighed. "Okay, Mira. We'll do it your way. We'll ask her tomorrow morning, *straight up*." That seemed fine. Everything was set.

When the next morning came, Zoey walked out of her room, like she always did. There was one thing she didn't expect to see: Mira and Rumi were sitting at the table. It was almost like they were *waiting* for her to arrive. On the surface, some saw her as oblivious, clumsy, cutesy, or anything along those lines. The reality was very different. She was far more observant than most people, perhaps thanks to her autism. She could even sense change in others. Mira and Rumi knew all of this, and more, about her. They knew that she could read *anyone* like a book with just one look. She was a little restless, and wary, at the same time. That was okay.

As she ate her breakfast bibimbap, Mira came up to her. She sat down next to her. She turned her head, then spoke to her softly, and confidently. She didn't want to scare her off. She didn't want a repeat of the previous day. "Is there anything you'd like to tell us? Are you

overworking again...and stressed out?" Zoey shook her head. That wasn't it at all. Could she really tell them this? Could she tell them the truth? Or would they judge her? She was, at her core, insecure. The quack doctor had made that clear all that time ago. She knew he was right, although she had strongly denied it. She remained grateful that the girls accepted her for who she was, faults and all.

"I'm fine, Mir. It's just...there's a...thing...I want tell you...and Rumi..." They were all ears. Even Rumi was interested. There was no ringing of a phone to break their concentration, or anything along those lines. They were hanging on Zoey's every word. She sheepishly chuckled. This wasn't how she would usually talk to them. This time, she spoke cautiously. "I...uh...met *someone*...this person really changed my life." Now, Mira was even more curious. Had Zoey begun dating, possibly? And who? After their whole encounter with the demon boy band, she had vowed to be done with love and romance *forever.* They all made the same vow.

"What's he like?" Rumi asked. After hearing this, Mira shook her head. How could she be so narrow-minded? Why was she assuming that Zoey was with *a boy*? That was a faulty assumption for so many reasons. Perhaps society's values had been imprinted on her more than she'd like to admit, despite the fact that Celine had hinted she had dated women in the past. Before she could interject, Zoey shrugged. "This person isn't...a boy...*exactly*." Rumi wasn't sure what that meant. Mira decided to interject before Rumi got the wrong impression. She hoped that she was helpinh. "Zo is saying it's *a girl*." Rumi's eyes widened. She hadn't expected that. She stayed silent and let her friend explain it all.

"Mira's right...it's a girl...well...a young woman *to be exact*." Twirling her hair, she admitted, sheepishly, "I was going to introduce you to her but...I thought you might judge me for it...I didn't want to cause any issues...I-I-I couldn't do that, not after everything that's happened." Rumi didn't know what the problem was. Why would they judge her? What was the issue? Why was she being so guarded about this? She had to reassure here that it was okay. She had to be there for her. "Why would we do that, Zo?...I mean you can date *whoever* you want..." Mira piggybacked on Rumi's words. "and we'll support you no matter what...that's who we are." Zoey smiled and hugged them both. "Thanks."

She pulled out her phone. She began furiously tapping away. She typed in the search engine the words "Togenashi Togeari" and tabbed over to the video feature. A certain song started playing. The beat was catchy and filled with emotion. The music was fast-paced. It slapped. Even so, it seemed a bit odd to them: the lyrics were not in Korean. There were in Japanese! What in the world? They had never guessed she'd listen to music in Japanese.

"Uh, Zo, what is this…? It isn't Korean...it's in...uh...another language." Mira shook her head. She knew what Rumi was trying to say. However, she wasn't saying it well. Her words could unintentionally lead to further issues. "It's Japanese...what does this have to do with that...young woman who...um...changed your life as you said earlier?" Zoey was almost proud of herself. She almost felt like showing off. She giggled softly, shaking with laughter, rather than with desperation, or any other emotion. "Oh, she's the main vocalist in this band...and well, she's my girlfriend, you know...so, I could recognize her voice *anywhere*...even in a massive crowd." Rumi hugged Zoey. She exclaimed, as loud as she could, "you bagged such a good woman...to be dating another musician…that's wonderful."

Mira was worried. Where had Rumi heard of such phrases? What was happening? What was going wrong? Was this a *wrong world*? "Hey don't say it like that, Rumi…so, uh Zo, do Celine or Bobby know about this?...if the fans knew you were dating a Japanese girl...it could be...*bad*." She waved her hands, almost like she was brushing it away. Mira was right to be concerned. Even so, this wasn't a big deal, right? She had been extremely careful. No one would know. She'd seen what had happened to other young popstars in Korea. She did not want that to happen to her. She wouldn't let it. She was sure that Mira and Rumi wouldn't let it happen either.

Zoey, whose eyes were illuminated by the room's ambient lighting, became even more animated. She somehow pushed down her embarrassment. She wasn't sure how she is doing this, so effectively. She could have easily turned as red as a ripe tomato. "Well...she's giving me *so many ideas* for our new album, you know." Rumi knew that Zoey had probably only learned about this girl from surfing the internet. She often searched online about Huntrix and was a member of multiple fan communities under the pseudonym Zoey4Life. She wanted to learn what fans thought about Huntrix and their in-jokes. She eagerly awaited action. She was the "sunshine" within their group. They appreciated that about her.

"Can we meet her?" Mira asked, trying to override the descriptors that Rumi had used. That would be another conversation for *another day*. She couldn't let her say those sorts of things openly. Staring at them with her huge, wide smile and innocent eyes, she chirped happily. Although she did not know how her girlfriend would respond, she guessed it would be fine. She sheepishly laughed. "Sure, sure. Oh, you will all love her...although I must warn you...she *can be* ina bit tense at times." She tapped in her phone. She sent a text to a woman she had named 'Rock Lady' in her contacts.

"Hey, sweetie. My friends wanna meet you. Is now a good time?" She knew that her girlfriend could be awkward and had been through a lot. She had tried her best to not pry into her personal life. Unlike some other people, she could be tactile and did not mind touching her. However, due to the fact they lived in different countries, their relationship was mostly a long-distance one. She hoped that one day she could convince her to come to Korea. Then they could have fun together. She'd to get down and dirty with her on the dance floor, and show her what she was made of. Maybe even her girlfriend's band could even do a tour in Korea! For now, she took it one day at a time.

"Okay," her girlfriend typed back. Without warning, her phone buzzed. Her girlfriend was video calling her! This was unusual. At the same time, she knew how much her girlfriend adored her, and Huntrix as a whole. Despite that, she didn't like to admit she was a Huntrix fan because she enjoyed rock music more than *almost* anything else in the world. Zoey tapped a button. Her girlfriend's face appeared on the screen. Her partner was polite and nice, using what her parents taught her. Otherwise, she had disregarded her parents, as they had been incredibly harsh with her. "Hi, I'm Nina," she said, in Japanese. The words were automatically translated into Korean. She had to stop herself from fangirling.

"Where'd you meet Zoey?" Rumi asked. The Japanese girl was a bit nervous. She didn't want to expose herself too much. Her face started to become reddened. "Uh, well, you know...on social media...that's how everyone does it these days." Again, her words were translated into Korean. Zoey, squealing with excitement, happily shared the rest. "You know how creative and lovely I am. One day, I was so impressed when I saw her video shared by someone on social media. After that, I sent her a DM." Nina almost rolled her eyes. She breathed deeply. She didn't like explaining this. Since her girlfriend had started telling the story, she had to finish it. "That's where it all began."

Zoey was proud of herself. She became more and more excited. She certainly should be. She was an accomplished lyricist and a musician whose authenticity and emotions always shinned through. She had a wide smile. It only became wider. Seeing Nina gave her more energy, in a certain way. She felt a connection with her that she had with no one else. At first, she had been cautious. It took time before they became romantically close. If only they could meet in person. That would make her day. She would feel so overjoyed. She wouldn't be able to contain herself.

Nina sighed. She wanted to talk longer but she felt that such a privilege wasn't possible. Not now. She decided to end their call. "I'm sorry, Z-Star, I have to go. I'd *really, really* like to talk more but I have a show tomorrow and need to get ready before it gets too late." Although she

wasn't telling them about it, she had crushed on one of her band members, and had been turned down. Zoey knew all about it. She tried to comfort her every time she brought up *that woman.* She wanted to be there for her when she needed it. She always told her that she should be honest with herself. She reminded Nina that she'd always accept her, *any version* of her. They were a curious pair. One was eager to please and brought a certain lightness to every performance by Huntrix. The other was a free-spirited girl who did whatever she wanted and whenever she wanted. The two women couldn't be more different.

"Okay, Nina-chan. Hope you have a good show! Talk to you later. Love you!" The phone call ended. Mira and Rumi weren't sure what to make of her. It had been such a short call. They didn't know what to think. After she put down her phone proudly and placed it in her pocket, she turned toward them. Although she didn't need them to approve of her or anything, she wanted to hear their thoughts regardless.

"So, what did you think? What do you think of Nina-chan?" she chirped immediately, her feelings aflutter. Her friends weren't sure what to tell her. Should they be honest or… should they make up how they felt? Without warning, Mira decided to respond first. She came up with what she was going to say on the spot. "Uh, she's nice." How could you make an assessment of someone in such a short call like that? She hoped that Zoey wasn't getting into a bad situation. She hoped they had at least met *in person* a few times and not communicated over text the entire time they'd known one another.

Rumi shrugged. "I...don't know...I think it's great you are with her and all...but I don't get a sense of who she is or anything." After Rumi's comment, Zoey almost began to cry. She had often, and quietly feared, that she hadn't been "Korean enough" to be part of Huntrix. As a result, she compensated time and again for this "failing" by being eager-to-please and having high energy. She aimed to become, and remain, irreplaceable, even if she wasn't fully aware of these dynamics herself. She knew that Rumi had a point. She took a deep breath and sighed. "If you could see her in person...you'd know what *I* know about her..."

Her thoughts was cut off when her phone buzzed. It was a text from Nina. She hadn't expected to hear from her again. All it said was: "There's a show at 88 Lawn Yard tomorrow. You should go!" Zoey found this a little odd. Nina had never told her about a show in Seoul. She knew the venue very well. It was across town from Namsan Tower, where the infamous concert held by the Saja Boys had taken place. Mira and Zoey were *nearly* mind controlled, along with many others. They'd become enslaved to Gwi-Ma as part of his invasion. Rumi had saved them. The outdoor venue was great for concerts during the warmer months. It had some standing sections and there were places to picnic.

The lawn had a lot of places for those who sold merch, drinks, food, and photos. It was a chill way to watch music and had good vibes. It could even be used to livestream concerts. You could enjoy concerts there without having to go to a big concert space. This was part of the reason it was so popular. Rumi, Zoey, and Mira had gone there in the past, but had never hosted any events there. Perhaps in the future they could. So, they'd sort of scout it out this time.

In a text reply, she asked innocently, "Is...it a band I know?" Nina remained a bit cagey in her response. She only said, almost cryptically, "it will certainly be...just be there, for me, *please*?" Zoey couldn't say no, not when she asked it like that! She wanted to be nice, friendly, and bubbly. She wanted to please her girlfriend. Everything could be fine and dandy. Since she was the "idea girl" of Huntrix, perhaps she could get some inspiration for their new album from the concert. That would make it all worth it, right? She shot back a text. "Okay, I'll be there!" Nina replied with a smiley face. She hated these weird emojis. Even so, she knew that Zoey liked them for some reason.

Zoey put down her phone. Rumi and Mira were staring at her. They were puzzled. Why had she stopped speaking mid-sentence? Was it important? They didn't know why she hadn't said anything. "Zo, who was that?," Mira asked, with a tone of concern. She responded almost instantaneously. "Just *Nina*. There's a concert tomorrow at 88 Lawn Yard." Rumi shrugged. Without any prompting, she added, "Maybe her band is coming to Korea."

Mira and Zoey looked at her and almost laughed. That seemed too absurd. It couldn't be right. She wouldn't do that, right? That seemed too far out there to be a possibility, at least to them. That would seem like a thing a character did in a K-drama. Nina always made excuses to stay in Japan. "Oh, Rumi, you don't know women...she is a real rebel...and coming to Seoul...that would be *too predictable*." Mira would know. She pushed boundaries. She had served as the band's lifeblood and had a rebel spirit of her own. Zoey didn't say anything in response, apart from nodding along with what Mira said, supporting her.

Rumi pushed the thought out of her mind. She had been thinking about it all wrong. Perhaps her friends had a point. "Okay, Mira, I suppose you are right." She came in and placed her hand on her friend’s backs. "Let's all go." Zoey raised her arm happily. "Yeah! For the Honmoon!" "For the fans!" Mira exclaimed. They all danced around, excited for the next day, excited to find out who this mystery guest might be. This time, they didn't mind acting silly and looking goofy. Zoey realized that her shock over seeing her friends watch her the other day had been misguided. She shouldn't have acted the way she did. "You know, I really like your funky dancing," Mira said. Zoey grinned. "Thanks, Mir." Rumi didn't say anything because she was playing air guitar and acting like some

rockstar. She had been watching clips of the top American guitarists like Jimmy Page, Jimi Hendrix, and Carlos Santana. It really stuck with her.

Through the night, Zoey muddled over what she was going to wear to the event. She decided on wearing a casual outfit. On the one hand, she wanted to partially disguise herself from fans. On the other, she didn't want to wear any sort of fancy clothes that might get dirty. Mira dressed similarly, as did Rumi. Each one of them had a unique outfit. Rumi no longer wanted to cover herself up. Even so, she knew that in this case, if she wore no sleeves, it could reveal her true identity and make people say: "Oh, that's Rumi from Huntrix!" So, she chose an outfit with patterned, see-through, long-sleeved shirt, although she wouldn't be wearing the sexy dress that went along with it. That would be for another time, when they were out on the town, having a good time in the nightlife of Seoul.

The next day could not come soon enough. Luckily it was a nice day. The warm summer breeze felt so good. Zoey had learned that the concert was set to take place mid-day thanks to a page she found on the concert's website. She, Rumi, and Mira could not find out any information about *who* was playing. All they knew was that the band was called "TT." Nothing more. As they sat down in the yard, chowing on their ramyeon, and a load of other comfort food, the stage lights flickered on. A fog obscured the musicians as they walked onto the stage, one by one. Zoey heard one voice echo and say loudly: "Hey Seoul! Great to be here. We are TT!"

As the smoke cleared, she heard five voices from five girls. Each one was distinctive. All wore disguises of different kinds. One was the vocalist. Another was the guitarist. One was on drums. Two others were on keyboard and bass. The vocalist spoke first. "We have a special song we'd like to share with you today. It's from *my favorite band* ever, Huntrix." The music began to swell. Each one of them played their respective parts. The woman began to belt out the words. Her command of language impressed Rumi, Mira, and Zoey. They'd never heard anything like it. To Zoey, the sounds were familiar to her ears. She couldn't quite place it.

The vocalist was loud, honest, and had a flame in her eyes which never went out. She stepped forward, beginning the first verse. Her voice seemed to fit it so well. She even changed the lyrics a bit:

> Nothing but the truth now /
>
> Nothing but the proof of what I am /
>
> The worst of what I came from, my past that I'm ashamed of /

The vocalist sung the rest, with her voice booming. Her words poured out, as she sang the lyrics about how there were things she didn't understand, how she tried to fix and fight herself, how her head became twisted, how her heart became divided, and how her lies were coming together. She wondered aloud about why she didn't trust those close to her to be there for her. The next part was same as in the original. She sang about how she was broken, how she saw saw beauty in those cracks and her scars, and how she wanted to sing without any lies. She said that she should be truthful to herself. At that point, some other band members joined in:

We're shattering the silence, we're rising defiant /

Shouting in the quiet, you're not alone /

We listened to the demons, we let them get between us /

But none of us are out here on our own /

They sang that they were not cowards, but were liars, and survivors, instead. The girls harmonized. They were tired but would be at each other's side. Unlike what Huntrix did in the first performance of the song, they did not hug on stage. In place of that, they played once more. The vocalist sang the first verse again, this time with two other band members. They moved to the bridge. They were clearly enjoying themselves. The vocalist had a vocal range as strong as Rumi.

She sang the last verse, aiming it one person in particular, a person she thought, and hoped, had come there. She added one line that she came up with on her own. She voice belted out this passionate solo:

My voice without the lies, this is what it sounds like /

Fearless and undefined, this is what it sounds like /

Truth after all this time, *my playful maknae* alight /

The light of my life, for this I made a graceful flight /

When darkness meets the light, this is what it sounds like /

People were cheering. Zoey knew full well that maknae was a Korean word meaning the younger sister, the baby of a music group. Fans and journalists had used that word. She could think of only one other person who would ever use the same. It couldn't be *her*, right? That wouldn't make sense. She couldn't have come. She wouldn't do that, right? Zoey, Rumi, and Mira soon left the concert's grounds and started walking back to Huntrix tower. They could unwind for the rest of the day. As the song came to a close, the vocalist told her band that she had a special trip to

make. They didn't mind her going off like this. It had been pre-arranged. The vocalist rushed into a bathroom stall and quickly changed. Before she knew it, Zoey saw a familiar woman standing right in front of her. "Z-Star!" the woman cried out. Zoey was flabbergasted. Was it really her? Was she dreaming? She rubbed her eyes.

"Nina-chan? You are here? How? Why?" Without any hesitation, she kissed Zoey on the cheek, resulting in her face turning beet-red. She hadn't expected it. She really knew how to surprise people. She had never guessed anything like this would happen. Her dreams were coming true. Her friends looked at her and chuckled as Zoey and Nina linked hands. They clearly loved one another. "Yeah, I'm here, Z-Star. I flew in on a red-eye last night. I sang that for *you*, my cute maknae." Zoey was completely embarrassed. She had come to Korea just for *her*? Really? Didn't she have a career in Japan? Rumi would have gloated, but she decided to push those feelings aside. She teased them instead.

"Okay, you two lovebirds," she began, trying to keep them together without any distractions, "let's go back to…the Tower." Nina agreed. The four girls made their way back to the tower, where they could relax together in their lush penthouse apartment. Nina was internally screaming. She had not been, admittedly, a big fan of Huntrix *at first.* After she listened to their music, and understanding everything that went into it, her opinion changed. She didn't like to admit it in front of her other band members. So, she had come up with all sorts of reasons to travel to Korea and play "What It Sounds Like." Somehow she had succeeded in convincing them.

The other band members had traveled back to Japan. They had no interest in paling around Korea. They weren't aware that Nina had a girlfriend. Momoka suspected Nina had a partner but had no solid proof. Rather than confront her about it, she knew Nina would reveal it when she was ready. Nina was there alone with Zoey, Rumi, and Mira. She was nervous. She had *never* seen them all in person, although she had met Zoey a few times in the past. So, she'd only seen all of them together in videos and photos. Part of her felt like she was intruding too much and that she should leave. Those thoughts faded away when her girlfriend sensed her internal dilemma. Recently, she'd gotten better at understanding her friend's emotions, and those of others. She came close to Nina.

She whispered in her ear. "Are you okay? Would a kiss help?" She said this innocently, like it was normal conversation they had every day. The last thing she wanted was for her to feel uncomfortable. Her girlfriend responded back softly, and quietly. "Z-Star, I'm better *now* that I'm here with you. A kiss later…would be nice." A blush began on her cheeks, making her look like some teen who had been complimented on their

superb science fair project about whether earthworms would wear mini-hardhats or not. Rumi looked at them both. She smiled. She expressed how she felt about them, in a supportive way. "Aw, you both are *so cute*."

They looked at her like she had said the wrong thing, like she had deeply offended each one of them in different ways. In fact, they were just embarrassed. As the group left the elevator and walked toward the door of the penthouse apartment, Zoey and Nina said in unison, "no, we aren't cute!" They held up their middle fingers in an absurd show of defiance. Mira could only shake her head. Someone must have never told them. Or maybe someone gave them the *wrong* information. "I'll...talk to you both later about what that gesture...means." As they got inside, Zoey became even more bubbly, once again.

"Hey, let's hang loose on the couch! And have some wonderful strawberry bingsu." Only a few seconds afterward, Mira started shouting. "Couch! couch! couch!" Zoey soon joined in. She began yelling the same words. Nina had no idea what was going on. Rumi had to clue her in. "Don't mind them. They just like relaxing...I like more..." Nina added in, "*rebellion*." Rumi nodded. Nina knew *some* Korean words. It was enough to comfortably converse, but not enough to carry on a full conversation. She was lucky that Rumi, Mira, and Zoey could speak English, because she had become more fluent as of late.

Unlike usual, she was a bit exhausted, She stretched her arms over her head. Her hands didn't hurt. This time, she wanted to loosen up just like Zoey and Mira. For the most part, she liked to keep going all the time. That was who she was. Perhaps that is part of what drew her to Zoey or maybe it even brought them together. There were an unlikely pairing. They certainly acted differently when they were with each other, than if they were walking around Seoul on a date.

She was tired. She wanted to curl up and sleep in a warm bed. Her heart wasn't rattling, nor was she agitated. Instead, she was excited to be there. To everyone's bewilderment, she said, "Z-Star, can I join you on the couch?" Her girlfriend looked at up at her. She had not expected to hear this from her. She wanted to unwind with her? Side by side? Zoey smiled happily, without any nervous chuckling or stress.

There was no obsessive cleaning or organizing of things. Instead, her wide eyes stared right at her. She began to let down her hair. She responded excitedly. "Sure, you can join me and Mira." She stopped for a second, then added, "Rumi, get her a bathrobe and slippers." Nina looked at her like she was losing her mind. She stared at her like it was a betrayal. Zoey gave her a thumbs up and cooed, "can you please do it for me, Ni?...I'll do something for *you* later, I promise."

Nina folded like a house of cards. She wanted to make Z-Star happy. *Who wouldn't?* She was originally drawn to Zoey's effortless rap, which she watched long before Zoey had ever contacted her on that fateful day. After they began talking she was soon drawn to her more as a person, whether her laughter, her voice, her humor, and everything about her. At this point, she couldn't live without her. "Okay, Z-Star. I'll do it."

Some time later, she came out dressed in a white bathrobe and slippers. Her face was entirely red. She felt extremely uncomfortable. She would rather wear some punky outfit than this kind of thing. She was willing to humor her, this time. "I don’t know about this Z-Star...I don't..." she started to say. Zoey burst out laughing. She snapped a photo with her phone and clapped excitedly. She loved teasing her.

"It's okay, Ni...I know this isn't really your thing...I'm going fulfill my promise from earlier." Nina was not prepared. Zoey twirled her close to her, in a dance she'd learned not from some class but from fans who showed people how to dance like a blond princess and catgirl from a queer epic, a five-season, 52-episode series, that Retlix had cruelly removed. She acted like the catgirl in that series, while she was treating Nina like the blond princess. Nina had never seen the series, but if she stayed there long enough, Zoey would surely make her binge it on her DVD copy and the copy she downloaded online of the other two seasons.

She was suddenly face-to-face with Zoey, who dipped her down in such a flirtatious way. The rapper had pulled her in. Her soft, warm lips soon pressed against her own. Her face felt hot. Although the kiss soon ended, her head kept spinning. They both held each other's hands tightly, and tenderly. Neither one wanted to squirm away. They loved being close.

Mira broke this up with her words. "What a surprise for a *wild dog*, a hurricane, to look like this...to be..." Nina interjected in her usual fashion. She snarled at Mira. She didn't like what this girl was about to say. "*Tamed?* Is that what you were going to say?" The girl almost recoiled back at this abrupt change in Nina's demeanor. Zoey was able to somehow calm her down. Mira couldn't understand why they were together, or even the dynamic that existed between them. Rumi aimed to remove this tension. She walked over to the couch, with the strawberry bingsu, kimbap, and bubble tea in her hand. She placed the food on the couch between the girls.

"*Mira*," Rumi began, "don't tease Nina-chan. She's our guest." Rolling her eyes, Mira sighed. "Fine, Rumi. You are right." Nina was starting to pick up on how how they acted around each other. She laughed heartily and shook her head. "You know, I'm not some delicate flower. Some say I destroy everyone and everything but... I can handle a relationship just

like *anyone else*," she said, while pouting. She wanted to make Mira feel bad.

Putting her hands up in a surrender pose, Mira sighed. She didn't want to cause any unnecessary friction. She'd given up. They almost laughed about it. The atmosphere soon became much calmer. As they loosened up, they began chattering about their different musical styles. Nina said that they could call her by her first name. They didn't need to use "chan" after it. Mira decided to tell them both about the truth behind that hand gesture. "Just curious, Zo and Nina...do you know what raising a middle finger means?" Zoey shrugged. She deferred to Nina. She decided to boast about it, like she knew what she was talking about.

"Oh, it means you are thanking someone for being nice to you...and uh...also...showing *your defiance*? My friend Momoka, from that *cool* band, Diamond Dust, showed it to me. Their songs helped me get through some difficult times in my life...and Huntrix's music had helped me even more. I listen to it *every day*." Mira couldn't help but laugh. Nina had it *partially* right, but she wasn't telling the whole truth about the expression.

"It means you want someone to fuck off, to screw off…" Nina didn't mind that. Zoey was horrified. She'd already struggled after she began swearing *more* after spending time with Nina, often virtually, from their texting back and forth, and phone conversations. She'd slipped up a couple of times before, making Bobby, Mira, and Rumi nervous. She had *always* come up with an excuse for why she used those words, saying she would do better. They believed her.

"Ni...if I had known, I..." Zoey began. Nina tilted her head toward her girlfriend. She glared at her. While their relationship was tumultuous at first, that had faded away. She realized that Zoey respected her and saw her as a complete person despite the pain and frustration caused from the differences between each of them. "You would have what?" Nina asked, almost with an accusatory tone, like she knew what her girlfriend was going to say. She was so loud that Rumi and Mira turned to look at her. The strength and sound of her voice even shook her as it echoed across the walls of the apartment.

Zoey tried her best to lower the temperature. She didn't want any tension between them. She had worked hard to make sure that this relationship stayed together without any issues. She wanted to please her girlfriend while remaining honest at the same time. It could be toug. "I would have done it *more*! If I'd only raised my middle finger at those *damn* Saja Boys for disrespecting our girl. I would have used it so many *fucking* times. So many frustrating people I have to deal with. I'd like to see them *piss off*." Nina looked at her with utter astonishment. She had never thought she'd hear her partner say this. Never in a million years.

She knew that Zoey could be a rapper with a *lot* of fire, but she'd never seen that part of her until now. Mira was taken aback. In contrast, Rumi exclaimed, "you go girl!" She proceeded to raise her middle fingers too. Zoey and Nina soon joined her.

Mira shook her head. What goofs. She was willing to indulge them for now. She had to make sure they only did this in the *right* places. "Okay, fine, Zo...you have a point...can we *please* not do this on stage?...the fans won't like that very much." Rumi and Zoey nodded. They continued to share their band experiences. Nina told them some wild stories like how she had swung a lamp at someone. She recounted that she had been bullied in high school. Zoey hugged her and said that people had done the same to her. They commiserated and remained angry that their teachers did nothing to stop the bullying from happening. Nothing at all. Nina then told them that she still had tense relationship with her father. At one point, without any prompting, Rumi remarked, "it's not like I can put my middle fingers up and cause a demon to disappear...I mean, that's not gonna strengthen the Honmoon."

Zoey and Mira looked at her liked she had made a mistake. At that moment, Rumi realized she had messed up. She wasn't supposed to reveal they were demon hunters. Oops! Not even Bobby knew about their true identities. Despite their rift with Celine, she'd said nothing to him about it. She had kept that secret. They had come up with so many excuses to explain bizarre circumstances. One day they might tell him the truth. "What's the Honmoon?" Nina asked. Mira put her hand over Rumi's mouth to stop her from saying anything. What she didn't count on was Zoey responding to her. Mira thought that she was on the same page.

"It's a barrier protecting the demon underworld from the humans on the surface." She took a deep breath. "And we are *all* demon hunters." Nina looked at her like she had a thousand heads. Was she telling the truth? Or was this some elaborate prank? She wasn't sure. She didn't have a chance to discern the truth until, out of nothing, Zoey summoned her weapon, her shin-kal. It was at that moment she knew it was real. Her girlfriend wasn't fooling her. She was utterly amazed. She thought about what she would so with such a weapon and how she could use it in shows. She started to imagine Zoey and her on stage, together, dancing around and having a fun time. Maybe her band and Huntrix could have some collab. It would be really out there, but she was willing to give it a try one day. Those thoughts faded away as she thought more about what Zoey had said.

Nina wasn't sure what to say. There were actual demons? And her girlfriend fought them...and was a pop star at the same time? She leaned into it. She saw no reason to doubt her. After all, it made her even more badass than she thought she was. She started to like her even more.

"Well, I'd just *smash them with my electric guitar*, you know?" Zoey shrugged. "I guess? I've only used these..." They had a good laugh about it. Mira, Zoey, and Rumi then revealed to her about the demon world and what happened with Gwi-Ma, a demon boy band, and everything else. Nina cursed out the Saja Boys and everything they had done, calling them "evil bastards."

With an ache in her chest, feeling especially bad for Rumi, Nina asked, "was there no other way? Did Jinu really have to die? Did you have to suffer through being half-demon until you ended up hurting yourself...and hating yourself? Couldn't you have..." Rumi shook her head. She didn't like talking about this all that much. Even so, going to therapy, and having Mira and Zoey at her side every day had helped. She could converse about it more now than than she had in the past. "I mean...I thought Celine was helping me out...that everything would be solved...that I never needed to tell my friends...but I was wrong."

Nina nodded. She could understand what Rumi was going through, on a certain level. She had been through a lot of hurt, and trauma, in her own life. At times, she had confronted it in a healthy way. Other times she had not. Mira and Zoey hugged Rumi. Tears streamed down her cheeks. Nina didn't know what to say. She only uttered a few words: "I'm sorry...you went through that." Rumi, whose cheeks were still wet from her tears, replied. "Thank you."

For the Japanese girl, the atmosphere became a bit awkward. She wasn't always good with expressing these sorts of emotions. Once it seemed that everything had calmed down, with everyone eating their snacks, she went for it. She blurted out her thoughts. She could say what you couldn't always communicate so easily through a text, but could do better in person. "Z-Star, I like your voice so much. The way you sing, I just want to hear it so badly...I need to hear it badly...All I am saying is that I am incredibly proud that my girlfriend is so talented." Zoey almost spit out her food. Her face had turned as red as a velvet pillow.

Munching on her food, she said, between her bites, as the flush in her face faded, "never change anything about yourself, Ni...we don't see the world the same...but I always appreciate how *honest* you are." Nina hadn't expected she'd say that. She knew that Zoey was skilled at saying the right words at the right moments. After all, she was the one with all the ideas behind Huntrix's songs, the one who knew how to surprise another person. With her girlfriend smiling brightly, she looked so soft and sincere, in the truest way. It almost felt like the world would have collapsed around them, as Zoey stared into her blue eyes.

She could barely concentrate on anything, except the Korean-American girl looking right at her. She smirked, like the self-righteous idiot, as

some of her bandmates called her, that she was. Her face lit up happily. At first, they had begun as friends and gotten on each other's nerves. It had developed, over time, into a romance, as they connected on a deep level. Although they'd never admit to anyone, except to one another, they saw each other as *cute*. How couldn't they?

"I guess I am honest, Z-Star…that is only because you are so damn *amazing*, organized, and care about others even more than yourself. That's only some of the reasons I'm so glad that you accept me for everything I am, even through all the faults." Zoey smiled. She was glad Nina was there. She leaned in and gave her girlfriend a few pecks on the cheek, causing her to blush once more. She said in a soft voice, "you know that I love you so much." Nina could only reply back, "I do too." Rumi loved how cute they were together. Mira was still getting used to this dynamic. As the night wore on, they kept talking with one another.

They had more in common than they expected, more than they had ever guessed, despite living in different places with history wrapped up in colonialism and exploitation. Surely, Zoey was perfectionist who drank black coffee. She could spend hours scrolling on her phone while lying on her bed. Nina wasn't like that. She was a bit of a wild girl. Zoey had not "tamed" her. Instead, she had shown her what it meant to be loved. For someone who had been through so much in her life, that mattered more than anything. As for Nina, she had to constantly remind Zoey that she didn't have to be perfect around her, she didn't have to satisfy her, and that she didn't have to *always* satisfy others.

Nina gave her the support that she needed to get angry at the world, so she did not have to hold her emotions in, and to let them out in a healthy way. Of course, she wasn't always the best with expressing herself. Zoey helped her with that. They were both there for each other. As the night wore on, Rumi and Mira retired to their rooms. Nina followed Zoey into her room. Both decided, right then and there, to cuddle with one another for the night. She could worry about getting back to Japan the next day, or some other time. What mattered, in that moment, was to be be there with her girlfriend and for them to comfort one another. What happened next would be up to them…

End Notes

There's a lot I could say here, but I will keep this short. First of all, the nickname "Z-Star" comes from what Kitty Boon calls Zarya Moonwolf in Mysticons. I kinda stole that for this fic, as I really like that nickname.

Anyway, this fic pulls from many inspirations, all of which can be read on AO3, including chapter 2 and chapter 3 of "Like Moths to a Flame", chapter 1 and chapter 3 of "Demon Marks".

Otherwise, the fic "Credibility" by StudentOfEtherium was a slight but not full inspiration. The same is the case for Basto's "portrait of a butterfly", particularly chapter 3 but also chapter 2. AnnieRoseWriting's "The Pretender", chapters of Grimace20201's "Debts", and parts of "Masks are for liars", particularly chapters 3, 4, and 6, were inspirations. Even so, chapters 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 were not inspirations.

Furthermore, the fic is slightly inspired by chapters 1, 4, 5, and 7 (entitled "Side Two: Breakpoint") of "Like Moths to a Flame", along with "Caress my patterns"; and chapters 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 19, 23, 24, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 46, 54, 55, 62, 64, 65, 68, 71, 77, and 78 of "Demon Marks".

This story further uses information from "The Art of KPop Demon Hunters" online book (which can now be pre-ordered from Gallery Nucleus!), particularly chapter 4.3, and the cards for Mira and Rumi in the Huntrix fan set. The outfit that Rumi chooses for the concert at 88 Lawn Yard is based on the one that Kabura Honda wears multiple times in "Call of the Night." The original draft of this fic was started in July of last year, before my overseas trip, then typed in early August. I worked on and off on it, esp. between November and December of last year, with a goal of finishing it by the end of the year (which I fulfilled!).

As I said in my original A/N, it was hard to figure out the story's ending, but I eventually did so. Writing this was challenging since no one had written about these two characters together, nor paired these fandoms together. Since December of last year, I still remain the *only* person who has written a fic with both fandoms in one story together. Whether these characters are entirely in canon, or not, I tried to show the connection Zoey and Nina have with each other.

This fic originally posted on Sunset, a femslash fanfic site. However, it was removed when I was sadly perma-banned on April 17th for mishandling interactions with a few users, despite apologizing to those users, removing certain passages of fics, and apologizing to the Sunset admin (and others). As such, I would strongly recommend **against** *anyone* joining that site, or Superlove. Both admins (Melo/Kat for

Superlove, Agnes for Sunset) are friends with each other. Those admins are very particular and not in a good way. I find the whole circumstance deeply unfortunate. I wish it could have been resolved a much better way.

I did not want this fic to be lost. I have not included some tags on Sunset (like Prompt Fill, First-ever Girls Bad Cry fic on here!, Cross-Posted from Squidge World, Queer Community, Sunset's Femslash Refresh 2026, and Exclusive to Sunset), but others have been retained. On Sunset it was listed as part of two series: "My Femslash Refresh 2026 Collection" and "From Free Spirits to Surfing: My KPDH Fics." At the same time, I saved a copy of this fic on the Internet Archive.

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!